



*Welcome
To
Japan!*

—A Japanese Maple Tree

*US Naval Hospital, Yokosuka
Welcome Guide
2008-2009*



—Torii Gate at a Shinto Shrine

Dear Newcomer,

Welcome to Japan! We sincerely hope you will enjoy your experiences in Japan and explore the culture. As you have probably already noticed, life overseas can be challenging and full of adventure.

The USNH Family Readiness Group would like to make you feel welcome right away and help you with these challenges. Then you can move on to having fun in Japan! This booklet will give you the information you need at your fingertips to make decisions about housing, buying a car and finding whatever you need throughout the community.

Please feel free to call anyone on the “List of Contacts” to ask any questions. Really it is that easy, just call! (Of course, you may want to refer to the “Telephone Dialing” section to figure out dialing procedures first!)

Sincerely,

USNH Yokosuka Family Readiness Group

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Things to Do First

When you first arrive, things may seem overwhelming. You have to deal with jet lag and moving into a hotel for an unknown amount of time. Don't worry—it all gets organized soon enough.

Here is a general piece of advice. Carry the telephone pocket guide with you (located in Welcome Packet) and always call ahead to insure you have all the documents required. This suggestion will save you a lot of time and energy. ******(refer to the Telephone Dialing Information Section when calling from a cell phone)

1. Make several copies of your orders and Dependent Entry Approval (DEA). Bring them with you wherever you go for at least 2 weeks. Also learn your sponsor's work phone number as soon as possible. You will be asked for this information often.

2. The active duty member will check-in to the quarterdeck . (243-7144) located in the lobby of the hospital.

3. Get cell phones. You need a way for people to get in touch with you and cell phones are the easiest way. (If living off- base, many people do not bother with a Japanese land line, since they are expensive.) Soft Bank is offered at the NEX and AU is offered down Blue Street. Many people say that AU has a better service area. (See "Telephone Dialing Information" section for general instructions.)

It is also a good idea to ask people how many minutes they generally use for reference when signing up for a plan. The plans may be a little more expensive than the U.S. and offer less monthly minutes.

**Directions to AU:
Go out Main gate and take a left. You will go one block and see blue tiles. This is "Blue Street." Take a right on blue street and walk through 4 stop lights and it will be on your right hand side. They speak English, and are very helpful to Americans.**

4. The housing office offers two different briefs.

The first brief is at 8:30 daily except for the first Wed. of the month for information about living off-base. There is another brief at 2:00 daily for information about living on-base. The off-base brief is mandatory if you will be living off-base while the on-base brief is highly recommended. Check with housing as sometimes times/procedures change.

5. If you have young children, call the Hourly Child Development Center (CDC-241-4101) and make sure your child/children have daycare reservations set up during the Area Orientation Brief (AOB) class that you must attend. You need to provide an immunization record for each child. Some sponsors will book a reservation for your children at the CDC before you arrive, since it tends to book up quickly! (See "Childcare in Japan section.) Usually before using the centers you need to have an orientation and provide your LES, but that is not required for AOB.

6. Set up your banking in Japan.

- Navy Federal: 243-3333 (ATM will issue dollars only)
- Community Bank: 243-4585 (ATMs will issue Yen or US Dollars)
- ATM Locations-on base
 - Autoport- Community Bank
 - Commissary- Navy Federal
 - NEX- Community Bank
 - PSD- Community Bank
 - Navy Federal (across from McDonald's)
- Getting yen off-base
 - Japanese ATM machines accept Navy Federal Credit Union ATM cards. (They probably accept any ATM card in the Plus Network.) The machines have an English option- at least in the Yokosuka-Tokyo area. There is a 1%fee.
- Dollars can be exchanged for yen at the following base locations:
 - Club Alliance (Enlisted)
 - CPO Club
 - Chili's

7. Figure out your living arrangements. (See "Living Arrangements" section.)

8. Get a car, if needed. (See "Driving Test etc" section.)

9. Take your passport to the NAVTO Passport Office located on the first deck of PSD, to get your passport stamped with the multiple-re-entry stamp. This should be done within 14 days of your arrival. They are closed on Wed.

10. Register children in school.

- Sullivans Kdg-5th grade
243-7336/7329 <http://www.sullivans-es.pac.dodea.edu>
- Yokosuka Middle School 6th-8th grade
243-5165 <http://www.yokosuka-ms.pac.dodea.edu>
- Kinnick High School
243-7392 <http://www.kinnick-hs.pac.dodea.edu>
- Ikego Elementary School Kdg.-3rd
246-8320 <http://www.ikego-es.pac.dodea.edu>
- Byrd Elementary (Negishi) Kdg-5th
242-4815 <http://www.byrd-es.pac.dodea.edu>

11. Stop by the DBIDS(Defense Biometric ID System) office at the main gate and register yourself and all eligible family members. Registration is required for scanner-based access to all military Installations in Japan. Call DBIDS office at 243-5125 to find out what documents they require.

There are many ways to get around Yokosuka while waiting to purchase a car: your sponsor, base taxi (243-4444), and base bus. The buses run every 30 minutes or so. There are two buses, clockwise and counterclockwise. Ask at the Navy Lodge or Front Desk CBEQ (Bldg 33) for a bus schedule.

The information listed in this section does not cover every area in your adjustment to Yokosuka, but they are the ones that often impact on the family or the ones that are easily overlooked.

Living Arrangements

For an informative overview of the housing situation in Yokosuka read (<http://www.kittyhawk.navy.mil/welcome/housing.html>), written by the folks at Yokosuka's largest command. Then visit the main web page for the Yokosuka Housing Welcome Center at (<http://housing.cnfj.navy.mil/>).

On-base Living Options:

- High-rise towers with 2 and 3 bedroom apartments (no dogs)
- Townhouses with 3 and 4 bedrooms

You must qualify by rank or number in family. It can take up to a year to move into a townhouse, it depends on availability, so check with the Housing Office. For lots of information including projected waiting times and unit floor plans, see (http://housing.cnfj.navy.mil/on_base_housing.htm).

Off-base Living Options:

- Individual houses
- Japanese mansions (apartments)

Whether you and your family choose to live on base or off base, both offer different opportunities and both are enjoyable living experiences. There are many people in your department who can answer questions you may have about either living arrangement. Just call someone on the list of contacts! For an explanation about dealing with rental agents, up-front costs, and many other details, see



(http://housing.cnfj.navy.mil/off_base_housing.htm).

—Example of an off-base house in Mabari Kaigan

Initial Steps to Finding Off-base Housing:

1. Begin by looking through the binders full of listings for houses or apartments that are available. They are located in the Housing Office and are separated by neighborhood. There is a binder listing rentals that accept pets.
2. If you find some housing listings you'd like to see in person, the housing office will call the agent to arrange a meeting. They will make three appointments at a time for you.

3. Find a rental agent through your sponsor or the Housing Office. Many people recommend using multiple agents so that you can see many different places. This is because it doesn't work like a U.S. real estate agent, who will show you all that is available "on the market." *In Japan, each agent will only show you his or her own rental properties!*

While looking for an off-base home, the Housing Welcome Center recommends registering and placing your children in day care at the Hourly Child Development Center or with a Certified Family Home Care Provider (refer to the Childcare in Japan section)

Things to Determine Before Talking with a Rental Agent:

1. Know the amount of your Overseas Housing Allowance (OHA), which is based on rank/rate.
2. Do you want a Japanese-style or Western-style house? (Do you want an American oven or refrigerator in your house, tatami rooms, etc.?)
3. How many bedrooms would work for your family?
4. How close do you want to be to base? (Many physicians must be within 20 minutes of the hospital when on duty. See the "Online Maps of Japan" section for a means of viewing alternative travel routes from a specific house to base and to measure distance.)
5. What transportation will you use to get to base? Do you want to be close to a train station? Will you be getting 2 cars - because you will then need 2 parking spaces. Will school bus transportation be available? (Before signing a lease, consult the DODDS Student Transportation Office at 243-9564/9566 to find the nearest school bus stop. You will have to visit their office and bring a copy of the "Rental Unit Floorplan & Map" that you will receive from your rental agent. To find the office driving past the Fleet Movie Theatre on the right side- start looking on the left side of the road for a 12 hour parking garage. The student transportation office is located in the bldg. beside the parking garage. It is located on the second floor and you will take the steps outside the bldg. Look for the sign on the bldg.
Note: Not all homes have space to park two vehicles. In fact it is better not to buy any large vehicles until you see what your parking area will be like – it may be tiny! Many people use the train, a scooter, or bicycle as a second form of transportation
6. Do you have a dog or cat? This is somewhat limiting. Only townhouses on base allow dogs, and many houses off base do not allow pets. But with a little time and luck, you should be able to find an off-base house that allows pets and even one with a small fenced yard. With negotiation, some landlords will agree to accept pets.

Things I Wish Someone Had Told Me— Preferably Before I Arrived!

- As with any move, some cash reserves will be needed for housing and transportation when you arrive in Yokosuka. Move-in costs for the Yokosuka off- base area are running the equivalent of four months rent. They are broken down as first month's rent, security deposit, agent's fee and landlord's bonus. The Navy reimburses directly for the agent's fee and landlord's bonus, and you can draw advance pay to cover the first month's rent and security deposit. For some cases, the owner may demand an additional month's rent as a bonus or as an extra security deposit. If justified, the Welcome Center can approve the extra bonus to be reimbursed by the Navy. An extra security deposit is not reimbursable.“ (Quoted from <http://www.kittyhawk.navy.mil/welcome/housing.html>). For the official word on this and other off-base housing issues, read http://housing.cnfj.navy.mil/off_base_housing.htm.
- Emergency/Emergency Travel- When a hospital family experiences any sort of a crisis; they should first contact the Quarterdeck-243-7144. There is someone available 24 hours a day/7days a week. Depending on the nature of the emergency, the Quarterdeck will mobilize the appropriate staff members and departments to provide assistance. Another important contact number is the CDO Command Duty Officer or COD Chief of the Day-090-6135-1041
- Although you are stationed overseas, your "FPO AP" address is still considered a U.S. address. Many companies will ship to FPO addresses; you just have to research it. You can still have things you can't live without from the US! A little benefit that many don't know about is the privilege of mailing things for free to other FPO addresses. Inquire at the base post office about "MPS'ing" letters and packages to and from other military bases. This could be useful if you have friends stationed elsewhere or you are planning to travel to distant bases.
- Moving into an off-base house and not used to wood floors? Consider buying lots of felt or cork furniture pads from the "100-yen store" in advance of your furniture delivery and placing them where you want your heavy furniture items to be placed. Also, felt pads on chairs are also a good idea. If the house has a "tatami" room, ask the rental agent for ideas on how to place furniture without damaging the grass mats.
- If you move into a house before your household goods arrive, there is loaner furniture (beds, sofas, and so on) available for free through the housing office. Smaller items such as linens, dishes, pots and pans can be borrowed from the Community Center for a fee. Both the housing office and the self- help office have items such as refrigerators, microwaves and dehumidifiers that can be borrowed for the duration of your tour. Self - help also has equipment, tools, and some supplies available for maintaining your residence.

- About electricity: Electrical power in off-base houses is approximately 30-50 amps at 100 volts/50 cycles. On-base houses are about the same. As the man in the Self- Help Office explained, because Japan's electricity is lower than American, it is not dangerous to try using your electrical appliances without transformers. If they don't function properly, then use them with transformers which can be borrowed from Self- Help. Off-base, the wall outlets will accommodate American plugs except for 3-prong plugs. It is a good idea to use battery operated alarm clocks.
- Some people use the Internet and a service such as Skype (www.skype.com) to phone the U.S. If you live on base, you can sign up for a DSN phone plan through the Base Communications Office (Phone: 243-5847). ***Please ask your sponsor for other economical phone options for calling the U.S.***
- There are a number of free classes offered through Fleet and Family Support Center- ex. Japanese conversation. The office is located on the second floor of the PSD building. For more information- please call 243-3372. There are also Japanese Language Programs available at the NEX.
- Organic food co-op
Seikatsu Club delivers to the areas of Hokkaido to Aichi Prefecture.
Hayama office delivers to Yokosuka, Miura, Zushi, Hayama, and Kamakura.
They carry many items such as whole milk, meat, tofu, vegetables, and many other products.
Refer to the website for more information.
www.seikatsuclub.coop/english/index/html
Or contact Kim Jordan at jordanbk@mac.com
- You can use a digital video recorder in Japan and one may come in handy if you watch sports. Many U.S. games are on TV during the night if they are live. (*Note that Tivo and ReplayTV devices and services do not work in Japan, even as a manual digital recorder.*) Japanese DVD's are not compatible with American DVD players. However you should be able to watch them on your computer.
- Netflix (mail order video rental) will work here and though mail may take longer, you can still enjoy "home" delivery of movies and TV shows on DVD here in Japan. Go to audibles.com to download audio books for a fee. There is a video/DVD rental store on base and the base library also has a collection of downloadable audio books.

Driving Test/Buying, Registering, and Maintaining Cars

Driving Test

You will get a **Driving in Japan** brief during AOB/ICR. You are encouraged to pass the written driver's license exam offered during AOB/ICR so you can take your road test and get your license as soon as possible. You cannot buy a car until you get a Driver's License.

Also, if you are having difficulty arranging childcare for all of AOB/ICR try to at least get childcare during the written exam period so both you and your spouse can take the test. The Child Development Home Office has the names of hourly and drop-in providers.

For more information on Driving in Japan and License Study Materials go to:

<http://www.cfay.navy.mil/License.htm>

Here you will find instructions and information on:

- How to purchase and register a vehicle in Japan
- How to obtain a Driver's License
- How to obtain a motorcycle license and registration
- COMFLEACT Instruction 5800.2E: Registration and Inspection of Privately Owned Vehicles

At this web site you will also be able to view and/or download the following Driver's License Study Materials:

- Important Features of the Japanese Road Traffic Law (Word Document - 2 MB)
- International and Japanese Road Sign Charts (in color) (Five GIF images on one web page – about 1.4 MB total)

Buying a Car

When purchasing a car, please take into considerations that when living and touring off-base many of the streets are very narrow. You need to decide if a small car or large car would best fit your particular living situation. There is an area on base (far end of the commissary parking lot-across from the school's basketball court) where cars are available for resale. There are also used car dealerships located off-base.

Before buying a car talk to your sponsor and learn about JCI- a bi-annual safety inspection/ mandatory insurance, and about obtaining additional insurance and the road tax (due in April); so you can select a car that meets your needs. A summary of the steps to obtaining a vehicle is included in this information package. For more details, see the

official web page at (<http://www.cfay.navy.mil/Traffic/index.htm>). Keep all of the above information in mind when budgeting for a car- it will add up to more than the initial price.

Registering a Car

Note: This process can take from 1 to 2½ weeks on average. *Cars must be registered in the sponsor's name.* If anyone other than the sponsor—even a spouse—is arranging the registration, a Power of Attorney (POA) is needed. One can be obtained at the Legal Office (Phone: 243-5141) on the 2nd floor of PSD, across from the Fleet and Family Support Center. **For any questions about the following process, contact Vehicle Registration Office (Phone: 243-5011) or go to <http://www.cfay.navy.mil/Traffic/index.htm>**

1. Obtain a valid driver's license (USFJ Form 4) as part of Area Orientation Brief.
2. Find a car you like. Talk to other Oakleaf members for any opinions on types of cars or prices for cars. *
 - a. E-4 and below need approval from their CO and CFAY Security Officer to own a car.
 - b. Buy from "Lemon lot" located next to commissary, individuals, etc. The sellers on this lot can be a good source of information on the registration process.
 - c. Buying a car in town may mean longer wait time for title (>5 days).
3. Get base inspection & JCI for car (on base) if due.
4. Get liability insurance for car (located in Auto Rental Building between Navy Lodge and Autoport Gas station).
 - a. The newer the car, the longer the coverage period needed (<37 months).
 - b. Insurance is paid for up front!
5. Vehicle registration
 - On base
 - a. Take all the info to the Vehicle Registration Office (VRO, across from Fleet Theater) including endorsement from Housing office/Navy Lodge/BOQ (You need to have done housing brief by now.)
 - b. Take endorsement to City Hall, Yokosuka and get temp plates (~Y750) if needed. (If transferring ownership from an individual, the permanent plates can transfer to the new owner.)
 - c. Get on-base temporary parking pass from VRO.
 - d. Back to VRO to get paperwork to take to Yokohama Land Transportation Office (LTO)—recommend looking in back of Seahawk paper for people who will do this for about \$25.
 - e. Take all info to LTO (including temp. base parking pass) and car to get plates.
 - f. Take temporary plates back to City Hall.
 - g. Final vehicle registration with VRO & base pass issued.
 - Off base
 - a. Have copy of signed lease agreement & take to VRO. VRO will let you know which police station to go to.
 - b. Go to City Hall and get temp plates if needed.

- c. Go to appropriate police station and apply to get parking space at your home inspected, which takes about 3 to 5 days to process. (Application may be denied if your car is too big to fit into your space.)
- d. Go back to police station on appointed day and get parking sticker issued (Y500).
- e. Go back to VRO and get appropriate paperwork for LTO.
- f. Get plates from LTO and return temp plates to City Hall if applicable.
- g. Get final vehicle registration from VRO & base pass issued.

Auto Maintenance

The *Autoport* on base can do basic repairs and will assist in making appointments at car dealerships located off- base. They have maps to the various dealers and will provide translation assistance over the telephone when you are at the dealership. The *Autoport* also provides car towing services. On-base towing costs have a minimum charge of \$30. Towing further than 3 kilometers costs an additional \$2.25 per kilometer. For example, to tow a vehicle from Negishi housing to the *Autoport* at Yokosuka would cost \$150.00. For oil changes, some people go off base to a business called *Autobacs* which has many locations, but apparently they speak a little English at the one located just south of the base near *Living*.

Telephone Dialing Information

Calling within Japan/From cell phones:

- For 241 prefixes: 046-896-XXXX
- For 243 prefixes: 046-816-XXXX
- For 246 prefixes: 046-806-XXXX
- For Negishi: 045-281-XXXX

To Dial the Base Operator:

From on base: 243-1110

From off base: 046-816-1110

Calling from the U.S.:

(for other countries, replace 011 with correct international access #)

- 241 prefixes: 011-81-46-896-XXXX
- 243 prefixes: 011-81-46-816-XXXX
- 246 prefixes: 011-81-46-806-XXXX
- Cell phones start with 090: 011-81-90-XXXX-XXXX
- Cell phones start with 080: 011-81-80-XXXX-XXXX

To Dial Directly to U.S.:

88 + 00 + 11 + AREA CODE + NUMBER

To call the U.S., you can purchase a NEX EZ-Call Calling Card for \$20 from vending machines at the Navy Lodge, Main Exchange hallway by Food Court, or the Laundromat. You can call using your cell phone without using your airtime minutes, but you will get fewer minutes for your money than if you call using a land line.

Note: In Japan, cell phone plans usually have fewer minutes included per month than U.S. plans. However, incoming calls are free on cell phones (they don't take away from your monthly minutes). Many people also use text messaging since it doesn't cost as much as a call if you exceed your allotted minutes per month.

Important: The Time Difference

Yokosuka, Japan is 13 hours ahead of EST during daylight savings months (otherwise 14 hours ahead of EST). Please note the time before calling someone in Japan.

Useful Base Information and Locations

Autoport

(Next to the Navy Lodge)

Hours: 0630-2200 daily

Car service center, Gas station, Garden Center, Convenience Store, Video Rental

Barber Shop

(Two locations)

Navy Exchange

Hours: 0900-1900 Monday-Friday; 0900-1800 Saturday; 1000-1800 Sunday

Fleet Recreation Center

Hours: 1000-1700 daily

Beauty Shop

(Inside Navy Exchange)

Hours: 0900-1900 Monday-Friday; 0900-1800 Saturday and Sunday

Commissary

(Next to Navy Exchange)

Normal Hours: 0900-2000 Monday-Friday; 0900-1900 Saturday and Sunday

Navy Exchange

(Next to Commissary)

The Mini-Mart (convenience store) and Book Store are within the Navy Exchange

Hours: 0900-2000 daily

Fleet Exchange

(In Fleet Center)

A smaller Navy Exchange with mainly athletic equipment and clothing

Hours: 0900-1900 daily

Video Rental

(Across from Navy Exchange)

Hours: 1000-2100 Monday-Saturday; 1000-1800 Sunday

Dry Cleaning/Laundry

(Across from McDonald's)

Hours: 0700-1730 Monday-Friday; 0900-1700 Saturday

Laundromat

(Between Commissary and Navy Exchange)

Shopping On Base

- NEX Autoport Gas and Garden Center located next to gas station. They sell some foods, beer and wine, automotive items, outdoor items, tools and pet supplies.
- Navy Exchange (NEX) is located across from Starbucks and has clothing, shoes, books, toiletries, liquor, toys, electronics, etc.
- NEX Children's Store is located in the building directly in front of the Navy Exchange on the 2nd floor. This store sells children's clothing and equipment from newborn to teens.
- NEX Home Accents is located in the building directly in front of the Navy Exchange on the 1st floor. This store sells kitchen items, household decorations, Japanese items, crystal and other nice things.
- NEX Furniture store is located next to Starbucks and has furniture for every room in your house.
- NEX Depot has nicked or damaged furniture, cooking supplies in bulk, office supplies, outdoor sheds and some electronics and tools.
- Takusan Treasures is temporarily located in Thew Gym due to renovations. The gift shop sells many different items from Asia. Open Tuesday and Thursday 1000-1500 and the second Saturday of every month from 1000-1400. (Upon completion of the renovations the gift shop will be located in the building next to the Navy Lodge on the second floor above the NEX car rental.)
- Second Hand Rose is temporarily located on the 2nd floor of the NEX car rental building due to renovations. This is a thrift store and donations are accepted during business hours. Open Tuesday and Thursday from 0900-1400 and the second Saturday of the month from 0900-1400. (Upon the completion of the renovations- the store will move to the first floor of the same bldg.)
- Hobby Mart is located on the second floor of the community center and has a variety of crafts and other items. Open Tuesday-Sunday.

Places to Eat On base

Chili's

(Next to the Navy Lodge)

McDonald's

(Across from Navy Federal Credit Union)

Outdoor play area and drive-thru available

Taco Bell

(Across from Navy Exchange)

Drive-thru available

Starbucks Coffee

(Across from Navy Exchange, next to ITT)

Main Street USA Food Court

(Across from Benny Decker Theater)

Popeye's Chicken

Seattle's Best Coffee and Cinnabon,

Long John Silver's,

A & W Root Beer, and

Manchu Wok

Delivery for Popeye's and Cinnabon- 241-3981

Café Sbarro

(Attached to Main Street USA Food Court)

Open for lunch and dinner daily.

Buffet available starting at 5:00 on Thur. thru Sun.

NEX Food Court

(In the Navy Exchange)

Anthony's Pizza (delivery 243-food),

Dunkin Donuts, Baskin & Robbins, and American Eatery

Fleet Recreation Center-

Cinnamon St. Bakery,

Mean Gene's hamburgers,

Submarine sandwich shop and pizza

Bowling Alley-

(Between Main Street USA and McDonald's)

Mean Gene's hamburgers and pizza

Club Alliance- (Next to the main gate)

Italian Garden

C-Street Grill

Stores That Ship to APO/FPO

- Amazon (*for most things*)
- Ann Taylor and Ann Taylor Loft
- Baby Center
- Banana Republic
- Barnes & Noble
- Best Buy (*some electronics*)
- Campmor
- Drugstore.com
- Gap
- Gymboree
- Hanna Anderson
- Harry and David
- Joann's
- J. C. Penney
- J. Crew
- J. Jill
- Lands' End
- Linens N Things
- Lion Brand Yarn
- MooseJaw
- Nashbar
- Nordstrom
- Norm Thompson
- Old Navy (*\$5 shipping per order*)
- Performance Bike
- Petco
- REI
- Robeez
- Sears
- Sierra Trading Post
- Stride Rite
- Target
- The Children's Place
- The Right Start
- Wal-Mart
- Zappos

If a store does not ship to FPO/AP addresses you can use a repackaging company like <http://www.apobox.com/> which will forward your purchase for a small fee.

Nearby Shopping and Food, Off Base

All are within easy walking distance from the gates except for the few listed at the bottom.

- Daiei Shopping Mall: The first floor has a grocery store (as do most Japanese department stores). Then there are many floors and shops, including a book store with an English section. There is a food court and restaurants are located on several floors. There is a gate (for walking only) onto base through the back side of the Daiei. It is only open weekdays from 0600-2000 and is closed on U.S. holidays.
- 100 Yen store, "Daiso": These "dollar store" equivalents are a good place to buy knick knacks for setting up your new home in Japan – recycle trash bags, curtain rods, hardware, furniture/floor protectors, closet organizers, etc. There are 2 of these stores located across from the Daiei mall. Walk the crosswalk over Rt.16 and walk down the side street in front of Daiei with a "Mikasa" store on your left and an Italian Pizza restaurant on your right. In the rear of the office building with the pizza restaurant, go through a narrow hallway leading to an escalator/staircase. Take it to the second floor. You will see a Subway (the sandwich chain) and 2 stores across from each other that are both "Daiso" stores.
- Blue Street: There are multiple shops and restaurants down "Blue Street." Look up because many buildings have shopping on several floors. (Many stores and restaurants are closed on Wednesdays.)

Look for:

- Saikaya, an upscale department store (with grocery/food retailers in basement, lots of "take out" food available)
- Gap located on 2nd floor of Saikaya department store
- Seiyu department store (with grocery in basement)
- More's City (a high-rise shopping mall behind Yokosuka Chuo train station, lots of restaurants on several floors)
- Many other stores and restaurants!
- Homes, Livin and Ave are large stores specializing in clothing, home goods, hardware, or groceries. They are a short drive south of the Yokosuka base along Route 16. D2 is another store similar to Homes (or our "Home Depot") and is located along Route 134. (From base, turn left out of Main Gate and travel along Route 16. When you see Red Lobster, turn right at a light onto Route 134).
- Amerity Homes is a furniture store importing Broyhill, Riverside, and other American made furniture. Their showroom is on Hwy 26 in Hayama, about a 15 minute drive from the front gate. Take a right hand turn out of the main gate and get in the left lane. Then take a left at Shioiri Station and follow the road through several intersections and up and down a large hill, for about 4 kilometers; when you will reach a flat stretch-start looking for a yellow building (looks like a house) on your right. There are a few parking spaces. Proprietor does not speak English, so come with Japanese friend or look up what you need to say ahead of time. He has a catalogue, and can show selections online.

Preschools

There are many preschools located in every town. You will want to investigate ones in your area. Below are a few that may fit your particular needs.

Yokosuka Co-op- (3 and 4 yr. olds)

This preschool is located by Sullivans Elementary School. Contact the school at 243-4436 or view the website at yokoco-op.com for more information. The website will also advertise if there are any openings.

Off-base Preschools- they are called kindergartens

Seika Kindergarten(will accept as early as 2 years)

This preschool is about a 5-10 minute drive from Yokosuka. It does provide a bus(Choo-Choo train) for pick-up/drop-off for children on Yokosuka base.

There is an English speaking person (Yuhko Sugai) available on Mon.-Wed.-Fri. to answer questions. (046-220-018) Communication from the school is in English.

Mikasa Kindergarten(will accept 3yr olds and above)

This preschool is located right outside Womble Gate. You must have a Japanese sponsor to enroll, so the school can contact them in the event of an emergency and for communication purposes. Communication from the school is only in Japanese.

Mikuni Kindergarten (3yrs and above)

This preschool is about a 10 minute drive from base- close to Hayama. It does provide bus transportation for pick-up/drop-off to base.

Kamakura Yochien(3yrs. and above)

This preschool is in a good location for people who live in the Kamakura or Ikego areas. It has bus service for those living off-base, but it does not pick up on Ikego base. You would need to have a Japanese friend help you with registration and the occasional meeting. The school has after school care until 4:30. The phone number is 046-725-2391.

The best way to find out about the preschools is to join the Oakleaf play group or talk to your neighbors who have young children.

Child Care in JAPAN

The Navy's Child Care Centers have won awards for their merit. They are well run and provide excellent care. All the centers are accredited through the National Assn. for the Education of the Young Child.

- Hourly CDC: This is childcare for children not yet in 1st grade and needing less than 25 hours a week (exceptions are made for AOB/ICR class). This is located at the Community Center/ Hourly CDC building. Hours of operation 0700-1700 and they charge \$3.00 per hour per child. They take reservations up to 2 weeks in advance. They offer preschool and kindergarten drop off and pick up. *You must attend an orientation before using the center and you will need to provide your child's immunization records.* (Phone: 241-4101)
- Main CDC: This center is only for children under school age needing full time care (over 25 hours a week). Dual active duty have priority. They have a waiting list for all others. Fee is based on Total Family Income. They will require an LES and immunization records. Parents will also attend an orientation.
For a parents' night out, the Main CDC is open the second Saturday of the month to all young children from 1700-2400. (Phone: 243-3219)
- Family Child care: These certified home-care providers offer Childcare for all ages in their homes. The cost is \$3:00 per hour, per child for hourly care. Fulltime fees are based on Total Family Income. Parents visit the CDH office (located on the 2nd floor of the MWR bldg.- office 201B) for registration/referral information. They need to attend an orientation, provide an LES, and child's immunization.
- Ikego and Negishi CDCs: These centers provide both part time and full-time care. They both require attending an orientation, and providing an LES and immunization records. (Ikego Phone: 246-8060; Negishi Phone: 242-4316)

Fun Things to Do With Children-

This section describes a few ideas to keep the kids busy, especially when you first arrive and the Lodge is your home! If you don't have Internet access, simply visit the Fleet and Family Support Office (located on the second floor of the PSD building across from McDonalds) for handouts and directions. Also, they will be happy to help you with any place that they don't have listed!

Don't hesitate to ask anyone from Oakleaf for ideas, tips, or even a ride! We'll be happy to tell you how kid-friendly a restaurant or a location is. We have all done our own exploring with the help of others and are happy to help out!

In the Navy Lodge and On Base

1. Check out the Navy Lodge's Kids Playroom. It's located on the 1st floor and is full of toys for little ones. Ask for the keys and the hours at the front desk.
2. Visit one of the *many* playgrounds on base. There is a terrific covered playground for smaller children on the Seaside, near the football fields and Purdy Fitness Center. It works well on a sunny day.
3. Check out the base library.(<http://www.cfay.navy.mil/mwr/library.html>) It is open from 1030 to 1930 and is located right off Gridley Lane and 3rd Avenue. All you need is your id card to check out books, DVDs, CDs, and more. Get some new videos to keep the kids entertained.
4. Shop for 'new' toys at Second Hand Rose. This thrift shop has all kinds of goods and is located across the Navy Lodge parking lot in building J-196 (between Autoport & Navy Lodge). Call 243-4090 for hours.
5. Grab lunch at McDonald's and burn some energy at the 'Arthur'-themed play area in Kosano Park. McDonald's is located at the corner of Clement and Cornick Streets, close to the hospital.
6. If you are looking for indoor fun, check out the bowling alley. They have automatic bowling bumpers for little ones and a special family program every Sunday from 1600 to 1815. Check out the website at: <http://www.cfay.navy.mil/mwr/bowling.html>. The bowling alley is on Clement Blvd near the Main Street-food court. Their number is: 243-4200 / 5158.
7. Movies, movies, movies! Want to get out of the lodge? Check out the movie schedule at <http://www.cfay.navy.mil/mwr/movies.html>. The Benny Decker Theater offers kid-friendly fare and the price is right. Come early to get some popcorn!

8. If you have young kids, try out one of the Family Fitness Classes at Purdy Fitness Center. One example is PT Tots, a gymnastics and movement class. The classes are held on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, exact times depend on the age of the child. You can also try yoga with your baby or toddler! Swimming lessons are also available for children of all ages. For more information and to sign up, go to the Purdy Fitness Center. For all of the family fitness classes, go to <http://www.cfay.navy.mil/mwr/fitness.html>.

9. If it is **YOU** that needs to burn off some energy, drop the kids off for the Child Watch program at Purdy Fitness Center while you work out! They can meet some new friends and you can get reacquainted with a sense of calm! The hours are Mon, Wed. and Fri. from 9:00-12:15. Call 243-5398 to make a reservation. The cost is \$3 per 1.5 hours. Unfortunately, the program is not available during any school breaks, including summer.

10. Start learning about Japanese culture. Sign up for an origami class or Japanese dancing. Classes range in age from 3 to Adult. Stop by the Community Center for the latest schedule or go to: <http://www.cfay.navy.mil/mwr/downloads/commctr.pdf>. They also offer ballet, hip-hop, and tap dance; classical guitar; Latin dance; violin; and taiko drum classes! For moms and dads, this is a great place to start practicing your Japanese. Conversational classes are offered on a continuing basis.

11. Try a Playgroup! Go to the Oakleaf website calendar (yokosokaoakleaf.tripod.com) for current dates, times and locations. Check out the Fleet and Family Support Center playgroup. They meet every Friday morning from 9:30 to 11:00 at Ayame Tower (near commissary parking lot). For more information and a listing of other Fleet and Family Support Center classes go to <http://www.cfay.navy.mil/FFSC%20Website/My%20Webs/calendar.htm> and click on the monthly calendar.

Feeling More Adventurous? - Outside the base:

1. The local Japanese mall Daiei (pink mall right next to base) has an indoor play area on the second floor that is great for children under 5. It is 500 yen to play all day (with shopping breaks, of course.) It is located right next to a children's clothing store, across from the elevators. If you don't find it right away, take the opportunity to do a little window shopping as you wander around!

2. Check out Mikasa Park. It is very easy to get to, take a left out of Womble gate and walk for about ¼ of a mile. The sidewalk leads right into the gate. Mikasa Park has a small play area for children, the Mikasa ship which is open for tours, and the Light, Sound Water Park with a musical fountain show every couple of hours. This is a great first adventure if you don't have a car yet. For more info go to: <http://www.cfay.navy.mil/FFSC%20Website/My%20Webs/Mikasa%20Park.pdf>

3. Check out the 'Fun Things to Do' Brochure from the Fleet and Family Support Center

(<http://www.cfay.navy.mil/FFSC%20Website/My%20Webs/Fun%20thing%20to%20do%20with%20kids.pdf>). This is a **GREAT** reference document! Some of the trips are easier than others but it is a good place to start if you have some time and are looking for something to do! All of the FFSC brochures have train and driving directions. **ONE WORD OF CAUTION: Be sure to verify with the FFSC staff or a friend how to 'return' from the trip, especially driving, as sometimes the return directions are different.**

4. Sign up for an MWR organized day trip. Try an onsen bath, take a sightseeing tour of Tokyo, or visit Tokyo Disney. These trips can fill up more quickly during the summer PCS season, but there's always a chance for a cancellation so be sure to call or stop by their office (located in the MWR Building next to Starbucks). Some trips are more kid-friendly than others so be sure to ask the folks at ITT if you are not sure whether it would be appropriate for your children. The complete listing of trips can be found at:

<http://www.cfay.navy.mil/mwr/itt.html>. Their phone number is 241-5056 / 5057.

5. For a taste of home, head to Costco. Your kids can enjoy hotdogs, samples, and nice wide aisles for running around! If you don't have a car yet, you can take the train. The Fleet and Family Support Center has both train and driving directions:

(<http://www.cfay.navy.mil/FFSC%20Website/My%20Webs/COSTCOKanazawa%20Nov07.pdf>).

6. Visit the children's museum in Yokohama. The museum's theme is based on the Anpanman character (you just have to see it!) and the entrance fee is 1000 Yen for everyone 1 years and older. The website is <http://www.yokohama-anpanman.jp/main.html> (Japanese only).

Directions: Keikyu Line (Yokosuka-Chuo Station) to Yokohama. Transfer to Minato-mirai Subway line (turn left when exiting Keikyu Line in Yokohama and follow the signs) Get off at the first station, Shin-Takashima, and follow the signs to Exit 2. Turn right when you reach street level. Walk 2 blocks, turn right and Apanman Museum will be on your right. You will be able to see the colorful sign on top of the three story museum from a block away.

7. Visit some of the other museums in Yokohama's MM21 area. The Landmark Tower also has a Build-A-Bear, Wendy's and Cold Stone Creamery. See map below. (<http://www.welcome.city.yokohama.jp/eng/tourism/spot/spot1050.html>)



8. Look for other places to visit around Yokohama on their great English website:
<http://www.welcome.city.yokohama.jp/eng/tourism/index.html>

9. Ask your sponsor or any of the great USNH Yokosuka family members you will meet at the monthly Family Readiness Group gatherings! There are lots of zoos, parks, beaches, and other kid-friendly activities close by!

Pet Care in Japan

Yokosuka Kennel

The Navy Exchange operates a facility for the boarding and grooming of dogs and cats on base in Yokosuka. It is located adjacent to the veterinary clinic. Call DSN 243-4530 for business hours and reservations.

Camp Zama Pet Kennel

Some people board their pets at the Army's pet kennel located on Camp Zama. Relatively close to the Navy's Atsugi base, Camp Zama is a 1.5 to 2 hour drive north of Yokosuka depending on traffic. The Camp Zama kennel is operated by MWR. It is not clear whether Camp Zama will accept Navy pets during their quarantine period, but Navy pets may stay there when their owners go on leave. Call DSN 263-5915 for information. Also see (<http://www.mwrjapan.jp.pac.army.mil/crd/or/pet.aspx>).

Off-Base Kennels

Ask Oakleaf Club members to learn if anyone is using any of the kennels available on the Japanese economy. Aside from the language barrier, there are health requirements to be met, and prices may be restrictive.

Pet Supplies

In addition to the products available on base, many pet supplies are available in Japanese stores such as *Livin*, located south of the base on Highway 16. A U.S. mail order supplier that will ship to FPO addresses is (www.drsfostersmith.com).

Clubs and Organizations

- **Family Readiness Group (FRG)**
Everyone attached to USNH Yokosuka—active duty, civilians, Multi-national Contract Laborers (MLCs) and their family members—is automatically a member of the hospital's FRG. The FRG welcomes incoming personnel and their families, oversees the command's MWR funds under the direction of the Commanding Officer, provides support to our Individual Augmentees (IAs) and their families, plans command-wide events, and serves as the central coordinating body for hospital clubs and activities. The FRG currently meets on the second Thursday of every month in the Command Auditorium (3rd floor). There is a potluck/social time at 5:30 pm followed by a business meeting that ends by 7:30 pm. Child care is provided. Please come! There are no dues.
- **First Class Petty Officer Association**
Contact RP1 Saffa-Wuya: michaella.saffawuya@med.navy.mil. Annual dues are \$30.
- **Second Class Petty Officer Association**
Monthly dues of \$5 are used to purchase plaques and other memorabilia for PCSing members. For more information, contact HM2 Buchanan: allen.buchanan@med.navy.mil.
- **Junior Enlisted Association**
If you are interested in joining, please contact HM3 Diaz for more information: yocelinda.diaz@med.navy.mil.
- **USNH Yokosuka Volunteer Group**
This group researches and seeks out community projects. Volunteering is a great way to make friends, get connected socially, and even hone your employment skills. Ask your sponsor how to get involved in our community.
- **COMPASS "A Course for Navy Life"**
This is a group of volunteer Navy spouses who mentor other Navy spouses. The training is usually a 3-day course from 0900-1200 and teaches spouses about all aspects of "Navy Life"—including acronyms/abbreviations, how to read an LES, how to PCS in the Navy, and even local insights. Breakfast and lunch are provided for participants. Childcare reimbursement is also available. If you have either been in the Navy for less than five years or been married less than five years, encourage your spouse to attend. For more information, email compassyokosuka@nsfamilyline.org.
- **College Women's Association of Japan**
If you are willing to commute to Tokyo, you might be interested in CWAJ, "a nonprofit, volunteer organization of Japanese and non-Japanese women interested in education, cross-cultural exchange, and friendship." See their web site at (<http://www.cwaj.org/>).

Useful Websites

Base Website

Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY)

www.cfay.navy.mil

Other Newcomer's Information Sources

"Shipmate to Shipmate Passdown Links" – Excellent Page.
From outgoing Kittyhawk to incoming George Washington.

www.kittyhawk.navy.mil/command/passdown_links.html

Great info compiled for Yokosuka's largest command.

Click "USS George Washington".

www.cfay.navy.mil

Telephone Directory, U.S. Navy Bases, Japan

Can search using browser software. Helpful dialing info.

http://housing.cnfj.navy.mil/cnfj_telephone_directory.pdf

Maps

On-Base Map

www.cfay.navy.mil/BaseMap/base_map.htm

Maps of Japan, semi-bilingual, searchable.

(Usage explained in "Online Maps of Japan" section.)

<http://diddlefinger.com/>

Housing Information, On-Base and Off-Base

<http://housing.cnfj.navy.mil/>

www.kittyhawk.navy.mil/welcome/housing.html

Vehicle-Related Information

Driver's' license information and study materials. How to purchase and register a vehicle. Motorcycle information.

<http://www.cfay.navy.mil/Traffic/index.htm>

School Information

<http://www.cfay.navy.mil/Schools/CFAYSchools.htm>

(School bus transportation is an important issue for off-base residents. For info, contact the DODDS Student Transportation Office at DSN 243-9564/9566.)

Pet-Related Information

Overview of importing pets to Japan with links.

<http://www.kittyhawk.navy.mil/welcome/pets.html>

Japan District Veterinary Command.

<http://www.usarj.army.mil/organization/vet/index.aspx>

(Difficult to find on any website is mention of the kennel at Yokosuka. For boarding & grooming of dogs & cats, call DSN 243-4530. Operated by the Navy Exchange.)

Train Schedules and Route Planning

(These sites discussed in “Regional Train Travel” section.)

www.hyperdia.com

www.jorudan.co.jp

http://www.japanrail.com/JR_shinkansen.html

<http://www.japan-guide.com/e/e627.html>

Online Newspapers in Japan

Seahawk – Yokosuka’s base newspaper.

<http://www.cfay.navy.mil/seahawk.htm>

The Japan Times – English language newspaper.

<http://www.japantimes.co.jp/>

Daily Yomiuri - English language newspaper.

<http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/dy/>

Television & Online Radio - News & Entertainment

Armed Forces Network (AFN) Satellite TV Schedule

www.myafn.net

(NPR) National Public Radio - A goldmine of “Listen Again” news and talk programs.

www.npr.org

(BBC) British Broadcasting – A huge goldmine of “Listen Again” news, book readings, play performances, etc.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/>

Information Just for Fun

City of Yokosuka Chamber of Commerce

<http://www.sukaichi.jp/ynb/>

City of Yokosuka Information (Includes links to other cities in Kanagawa, some of which have English pages.)

www.city.yokosuka.kanagawa.jp/e/index.html

City of Kamakura Tourist Information

(Among other things, look at the Flower Calendar.)

<http://www.kamakuratoday.com/e/index.html>

Yokohama Convention & Visitors Bureau
<http://www.welcome.city.yokohama.jp/eng/tourism/>

Tokyo Convention & Visitors Bureau
http://www.tcvb.or.jp/en/index_en.htm

Tokyo Tourism Info
(Among other things, look at “Self-Guided Tours in Tokyo”.)
<http://www.tourism.metro.tokyo.jp/english/>

Kanagawa Prefecture Tourist Information
<http://www.kanagawa-kankou.or.jp/index-e.html>

Japan Travel and Living Guide
(Excellent site. The more you use it, the better it gets.)
<http://www.japan-guide.com/>

Japan National Tourist Organization
<http://www.jnto.go.jp/eng/>

Japan’s UNESCO World Heritage Sites
<http://www.japan-guide.com/e/e2251.html>
<http://whc.unesco.org/en/statesparties/jp>

Japan Telephone Directory in English
<http://english.itp.ne.jp/index.html>

Translate Names into Japanese Characters
www.japanese-name-translation.com

New Sanno Hotel
Relative Visiting? Lodging Ideas in Tokyo
Hotel for Military Personnel visiting Tokyo
www.thenewsanno.com

Hardy Barracks- Recreational Lodging in Tokyo
(Great backup if New Sanno is full.)
email- hardy.barracks.reservation@zama.army.mil
DSN-229-3270

Using the Internet in Japan

For those living in temporary quarters or moving into off-base residences, Internet access is an important issue. Some Internet aspects are worth mentioning:

Public Computers with Internet Access

There are a few locations on the Yokosuka Naval Base where one has access to computers which are connected to the Internet. The Base Library is one such location. See (<http://www.cfay.navy.mil/mwr/library.html>). The Navy Lodge and BOQ also have small Internet computer rooms and connections available for laptops as well.

Free High-Speed Wireless Internet

There are several places in and around Yokosuka where one has access to free high-speed wireless Internet service. These locations include: Club Alliance Panther Sports Bar, CPO Club's Cove Bar, Spectrum Liberty Center, the 3rd floor of the Fleet Recreation Center, Yokosuka Library, Yokosuka Bowling Center, Green Beach Pool Deck, Negishi All Hands' club, Negishi Library, Ikego Pool Deck, Ikego Club Takemiya, Kosano Park, and Green Bay Marina, ITT/Starbucks Outdoor Area, and the Food Court across from the Benny Decker Theater. A Yokosuka base map can be found at (http://www.cfay.navy.mil/BaseMap/base_map.htm).

Internet Service for Base Housing

If you live on base, you can use Americable for cable TV and Internet access (Phone: 241-2288).

Internet Service for Off-Base Housing

There are two major Internet Service Providers for off-base: J:COM and NTT East. Each offers many bundled services: Internet, television, and telephone and different Internet speeds. Your rental agent may be of help to you. Each company has English web pages. The chosen company will send an English-speaking representative to your home to write the contract and arrange installation at appointment time. The prices seem comparable to the United States. For information see (<http://www.jcom.co.jp/english.html>) and (http://www.ntt-east.co.jp/product_e/05/index.html).

(Note) NTT offers connection to the Internet via fiber optics, which sounds tempting, but some people find the website hard to understand. J:COM's telephone service is not a traditional land line- (See the section "Telephone and Television Service" to learn about getting telephone service in Japan.) With J:COM one does get a telephone number and can use a standard American telephone set via the internet. You would have to research to determine if it is economical for making international calls.

Telephone Service via the Internet

Free or cheap computer-to-computer voice calling technology (VoIP), such as Skype, is not covered in this article.

Japanese Internet Search Engines

(Internet tip): Consider using a Japanese search engine when searching for information about the arts, antique markets, special events, shopping, travel, etc. Several popular Japanese search engines are: (<http://www.yahoo.jp>), (<http://www.google.jp>), (<http://www.excite.jp>). Even though the search pages are in Japanese, type English words in the search argument, and often enough- the search will yield better results than using American search engines. Many Japanese websites have a smattering of useful English information to see the name, location and event date of whatever you are looking for. Try it for yourself.

* Wireless PC Networks OK / Cordless American Telephones Prohibited in Japan
American FCC labeled cordless telephones, walkie-talkies and many other wireless electronic devices are prohibited in Japan because of interference. Wireless PC network equipment is not a problem. For more information see (http://housing.cnfj.navy.mil/general_info.htm#TELEPHONE).

Telephone and Television Service

For persons living on- base, acquiring telephone, television, and Internet service are relatively easy and not addressed in this document.

Cell Phones

“Things to Do First” covers the highlights of how to get a cell phone.

“Regular” Telephone Service

Read on the Housing Welcome Center web site

(<http://housing.cnfj.navy.mil/utilities.htm>) about the procedure for getting regular telephone service off- base. Many people decide it is not worth the money and effort to do this and use cell phones only. Another option is to get telephone service from the Internet service providers J:COM or NTT. See the section “Using the Internet in Japan.”

Television Service

Off-base residents may borrow a satellite dish, which allows them to watch Armed Forces Network (AFN) television programming. There is no monthly fee for service, but you must get permission from your landlord to install the equipment, buy an installation kit, and pay someone to do the installation (and removal) of the satellite dish.

Another option for television service off- base is to get Japanese cable television. For example, J:COM offers a bundle of services including Internet, television, and telephone - you can choose one, two or all three services. J:COM cable includes a variety of English-language stations such as CNN, Disney, Discovery, National Geographic, and the Mystery Channel. American television sets do function with the J:COM cable service.

Minimum Contract Length

When subscribing for Internet, television, or telephone service, check the minimum contract length allowed in case you are planning to move on base when housing becomes available. For example, J:COM’s minimum contract is six months.

Regional Train Travel: Fun and Easy

Technology has made train travel in Japan fun and easy. Two tools that are invaluable are:

1. The PASMO train travel card. (One per person.)
2. The Hyperdia.com train route planning web site in English.

Also useful are two brochures available at Yokosuka's ITT travel office: the yellow "*Kanagawa & Tokyo Railway Guide*" and the red "*Keikyu Tourists Guide*." Much the same information printed in these brochures can be found online as well.

- For a bilingual Keikyu Train Line map, which is useful for traveling from the Yokosuka area as far north as Tokyo, go to http://www.keikyu.co.jp/worldwide/pdf/rosen_1.pdf.
- @ A bilingual Tokyo railway map can be found at (http://www.att-japan.net/modules/tinyd3/content/pdf/tokyo_railway.pdf).
- @ And a Tokyo subway map can be found at (http://www.att-japan.net/modules/tinyd3/content/pdf/tokyo_subway.pdf).

PASMO

In a nut shell, PASMO is a "smart" debit card which is easily recharged. One can zip on and off trains, subways, monorails, and buses throughout the Tokyo metropolitan area. Great fun and not too intimidating for non-Japanese readers/speakers! It has eliminated the need for paper tickets and fare calculation machines. One can scurry in and out of the automated ticket gates simply by touching the PASMO card to the magnetic pads on top of the gates, and as you walk through you can see your card balance displayed.

Currently PASMO cards are sold at Keikyu train stations but not at JR train stations. Maybe that will change in the future. These cards can be purchased and recharged at Keikyu train ticket vending machines. (They can be recharged at JR Stations) The purchase price is from 1000 to 10000 yen, payable in cash. The card and change will be dispensed from the machine. A refundable deposit of 500 yen will be deducted from the initial amount of money credited to the card.

The general steps for buying a PASMO card from a train ticket vending machine:

1. Press "English" on the upper right-hand corner of the touch screen.
2. There are 2 columns of buttons to the left of the touch screen. Press the "Card" button near the bottom of the right column.
3. Two bars will appear on the touch screen. Press the top bar to buy a new PASMO card.
4. Then choose the amount of yen you want to put on the card and insert the bill(s) when prompted.
5. The plastic card and change will be dispensed from the machine.

To add more money to a PASMO card:

Repeat steps 1 and 2 above.

3. Two bars will appear on the touch screen. Press the bottom bar to add money to a previously purchased PASMO card.
4. Insert the PASMO card and the card balance will be displayed.
5. Choose the amount of yen you want to add to the card and insert the bill(s) when prompted.
5. The plastic card and change will be dispensed from the machine.

To read more about PASMO:

(http://www.japan-guide.com/e/e2359_002.html)

(<http://www.pasmo.co.jp/en/>)

(<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PASMO>)

Hyperdia.com Train Route Planning Web Site

Use of this web site is basically self-explanatory. Input your starting point, destination, travel date and desired departure or arrival time. The results will return several travel routes along with travel details, cost, and duration of journey per route. Sometimes it is not obvious whether one is on a subway train or a regular train, because the regional train and inner city subway blend together from the point of view of hyperdia.com. When transferring from one to another it is sometimes necessary to walk quite a distance inside a large station or perhaps even exit one station and enter an adjacent station. But English signs are available and attendants are helpful.

The first thing one needs to know in order to use this web site is the name of the train station from which their journey will begin. For those living near the Yokosuka Naval Station, the two major train stations are Yokosuka-chuo (Keikyu line) and Yokosuka (JR line). Going north to Yokohama or Tokyo, it is most efficient to travel

on the Keikyu from the Yokosuka-chuo station. Going west to nearby Zushi or Kamakura, one would take the JR at the Yokosuka station. Travel books, web sites, and brochures usually list the nearest train station for one's travel destination. Often times they even indicate which exit number to use at the train station.

What if the train station name is unknown? If there is more than one train station with the same name, the web site will list all the station names to choose from. For example, input "Yokosuka" as the Start Point and input "Kawasaki" as the Destination and click "Search." The next page is where one chooses the travel date and time. But also notice that there is a pop-up list showing two Yokosuka stations and a pop-up list showing four Kawasaki stations. Sometimes looking at the suggested routes will offer a clue as to which is the proper station for one's journey.

Hyperdia.com is a favorite, but another route planning site is [\(http://www.jorudan.co.jp/english/\)](http://www.jorudan.co.jp/english/).

Longer Trips on the Train

Japan has a superb, "user friendly" public transportation system. An excellent way to learn about all the public transportation options available throughout the country is to visit (<http://www.japan-guide.com/e/e627.html>). This web page has many links to assist in long-distance travel planning. It will also help in finding information about local transportation at your travel destination.

For information specifically about the bullet train ("shinkansen"), go to (http://www.japanrail.com/JR_shinkansen.html). Interestingly, Hyperdia.com will plan routes using the shinkansen but be aware that the PASMO card is not usable for these trains. Consult a travel agent for help in planning a trip and buying tickets for the shinkansen.

Child Fares

In general, infants and children under the age of 6 can board trains for free (although this may vary for long distance travel versus regional trains). For an explanation of train fares for children in Japan, see (http://www.japanrail.com/JR_ticketrules.htm).

Online Maps of Japan with English Search

Diddlefinger.com allows you to search for addresses on maps of Japan using the English language. It is useful for house hunting off-base and exploring Japan. For a full street address, (eg.) such as "4-30-8 Yoshii, Yokosuka, look up the address on diddlefinger.com to find alternative travel routes from the house to the base including train station locations. Look at the satellite image to understand the topography of the neighborhood in this hilly area of Japan.

Knowing how to enter the Japanese addresses is a little tricky until you become more familiar, but some search examples are included below. Start by going to diddlefinger.com and click "English Address Search". As one types in the parts of the address, lists pop-up to help you choose the proper location when there are similar names in different geographic areas of Japan. The search results are zoomable, semi-bilingual maps with optional satellite images. Addresses can be saved for future reference and distance calculations are also available.

To get an explanation of the symbols used on the maps, click "Glossary." Among the extremely helpful symbols shown on the maps are those for train stations, with the station name given in Japanese characters and English spelling. Click on the train station symbol to see more information about that particular location.

Other helpful symbols that appear on the diddlefinger.com maps are logos for 7-Eleven stores and Family Mart stores - these convenience stores are frequently used as navigation landmarks by English-speakers here in Japan. Other familiar American business logos appear on the maps as well.

Address Search Example 1 - Finding the Base

Step 1: Type "yokosuka", then select pop-up "Yokosuka-shi, Kanagawa Prefecture"

Step 2: "not needed for this place"

Step 3: Type a few letters "yo", then select from the pop-up menu any place in Yokosuka.

Step 4: Optional

Click "map this" and zoom in to find the exact neighborhood name you are interested. Such as "Kusugaura-cho," which is the base, or "Hon-cho", which is just outside the gate. Next time you do this search, input one of these names in Step 3.

Address Search Example 2 - Finding a House

Proper address: 4-38-8 Yoshii, Yokosuka (Get address from your real estate agent.)

Step 1: Type "yokosuka", then select pop-up "Yokosuka-shi, Kanagawa Prefecture"

Step 2: "not needed for this place"

Step 3: Type "yoshii", then select pop-up "Yoshii, all areas, Yokosuka-shi"

Step 4: Optional or input house number 4-30-8

Click "map this".

Travel Tips

- Transportation

Nex Car Rental—located in the building between the Autoport and Navy Lodge
Call for a reservation – 243-4456

Some people feel that it is less expensive to rent a car (because tolls are included) than to drive their personal vehicles when picking up people from the airport.

Taxi-Van Chauffeur to airport- 243-4511

Price Narita \$150 Haneda \$90 New Sanno \$115

Van can hold max. 6 people and you share the total cost.

Narita Shuttle Bus- This bus runs 3 times a day.

Sign up for bus transportation by phone at DSN 243-7777/2287 or email cfaybus@cfay.navy.mil. You must provide a copy of your orders by email, fax, or hand delivery. The bus office is located on the first floor of the PSD building (1555). People traveling with PSC or TAD orders will be assigned a reserve seat. All other travelers are space available and will be assigned at roll call (one hour before departure) depending on availability. Right now it is free to ride this bus, but this may change in the near future. Call 243-7777/2287 for all the latest information and see the CFAY web site for more details.

- Travel Agents

There are two great resources on base for a day trip or vacation package.

ITT and UTC Travel are located in the building next to Starbucks and in the Fleet Recreation Center.

Business hours are 9:00-6:00 Mon.-Fri.

9:00-1:00 Sat.

There are also many English-speaking travel agents near the base that may offer lower rates. Three agencies that are often used are JTB, IACE Travel, and H.I.S.

JTB is located adjacent to the Yokosuka-chuo train station. Standing at the base of the escalator, facing the escalator, JTB is located on your right.

Business hours are 10:00-7:00 Mon.-Fri. and 10:00-6:00 Sat. and Sun.

Phone number is 046-824-5311

Website- www.jtb.co.jp/shop/yokosuka (Japanese only)

JTB sells tickets for the bullet train. (Shinkansen)

IACE Travel is located on Rt. 16. Turn right out main gate. IACE is across from the Police Koban (kiosk) and next to the Volvo dealership.

Business hours are 9:00-6:00 Mon.-Fri.

9:00-5:00 Sat.

Closed on Sundays and American holidays.

Phone number is 046-828-6471

Web site-www.iace.co.jp/English

H.I.S. is located near Saikaya Department Store on Blue Street.

Business hours are 10:00-6:30 Mon.-Fri.

11:00-6:00 Sat.

Phone number is 046-821-5141.

Web site-www.his-j.com/branch/04_ysk.htm